GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:515
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
HIV CHILDREN
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY;RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Bharat mein pratidin lagbhag do sau bachche HIV ki giraft mein` appeared in `Jansatta` dated November 2, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey of children suffering from HIV;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government to check the constant growth of HIV challenged children; and

(f) the rehabilitation scheme for orphan children suffering from AIDS?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The estimates stated regarding the number of children infected every day with HIV are exaggerated.The estimated number of HIV infected children born in the country is approximately 30,000 per year with an HIV prevalence rate of 0.3% among pregnant mothers.

(c): Government has not conducted any survey of children suffering from HIV.

(d): N.A.

(e) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of:

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness compaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability of the programme at National, State and Municipal levels.

Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

(f) The family members and Community based organizations are encouraged to take care of AIDS orphaned children.